Ways to Instigate the Love of Allaah

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All praise is due to Allaah alone Who perfectly controls everything. May He send salutations and exalt the mention of the Warner and the Bringer of Glad Tidings - our Prophet Muhammad, his family and all his companions.

One of the attributes of Allaah is that He Loves His believing slaves in a fashion which befits His Majesty and Might; His slaves in turn love Him more than their wealth, children and their own selves.

Allaah says what means:

> **"Allaah will bring a people whom He will love and they will love Him." (Al-Maa'idah:54)**

It is mutual love between the Lord and His slaves:

> **"And of mankind are some who take (for worship) others besides Allaah as rivals (to Allaah). They love them as they love Allaah. But those who believe love Allaah more (than anything else)." (Al-Baqarah: 165)**

The love of Allaah is a great rank which people compete to earn, strive to obtain, sacrifice for its sake and work hard to be worthy of. Love is the provision of hearts, the food of souls, a comfort for the eyes and the life

which when people deprived themselves of it, die while they are still alive. This love is the light which when extinguished results in people living in darkness; it is the cure which when lost, causes people to suffer from numerous diseases; it is the sweetness which when squandered, causes people to live their life in grief and agony.

The Ruling on Loving Allaah

Loving our Lord is mandatory upon each of His slaves. Only one whose heart is dark and has no insight will not possess such love, as Allaah says which means:

> **"Say: If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your kindred, the wealth that you have gained, the commerce in which you fear a decline, and the dwellings in which you delight are dearer to you than Allaah and His Messenger, and striving hard and fighting in His Cause, then wait until Allaah brings about His Decision (torment). And Allaah guides not the people who are the rebellious, disobedient to Allaah." (At-Tawbah: 24)**

Allaah issued a stern warning to these people if they favoured loving others over Allaah and His Messenger, and warnings only issue for foregoing mandatory actions.

Anas (ﷺ) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

> **"I swear by The One in Whose Hands is my soul, none of you will be a complete believer until I am dearer to him than his father, his son, and all of mankind." (Bukhaari)**

Loving Allaah is a Sign of Strong Belief

The Prophet (ﷺ) informed us that it is a quality of belief and a sign of enjoying the sweetness of faith is realized when the love of Allaah and His Messenger is greater than that of anyone or anything else. Anas Ibn Maalik (ﷺ) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

> **"One who attains the following three things will taste the sweetness of faith: To make Allaah and His Messenger more beloved to himself than anything else; to love a person for no other reason except for the sake of Allaah; and to hate to return to disbelief just as much as he would hate to be thrown into fire." (Bukhaari & Muslim)**

Also, Allaah says what means:

"O you who believe! When believing women come to you as emigrants, examine them; Allaah knows best as to their Faith, then if you ascertain that they are true believers send them not back to the disbelievers." (Al-Mumtahinah:10)

Allaah commanded his Messenger (ﷺ) to test the belief of these women in order to ascertain their belief. He (ﷺ) would make them swear that they did not emigrate except purely for the love of Allaah and His Messenger (ﷺ).

Queries

Beloved Muslims! If the love of Allaah is compulsory and if it is one of the qualities of belief, what is our position with respect to this love? Are we amongst those who love Allaah? Are we amongst those Whom Allaah loves?

Imaam Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said:

> "When too many people started claiming that they loved Allaah, they had to prove their claim, because if people were granted their wishes according to what they claim without having to

> prove anything, then they would have usurped the rights of others. Therefore, no claim can be accepted without proof."

Allaah says (what means):

> **"Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): 'If you (really) love Allaah, then follow me, Allaah will love you and forgive you your sins.'" (Aali 'Imraan:31)**

Thus many people fell behind, and only those who truly love the Prophet (ﷺ) remained steadfast - those who follow him in their words and actions."

Beloved Muslims! How much do we truly follow the Prophet (ﷺ)? Where are we when it comes to following his Sunnah in our worship, transactions and manners? Where are we when it comes to following his Sunnah in our supplications, remembrance of Allaah, recitation of the Qur'aan, seeking the assistance of Allaah, relying on Him and taking refuge in Him? Where are we when it comes to following his Sunnah by being kind to our friends, neighbour and parents, and when it comes to being generous to guests and visiting the sick? Where are we when it comes to following his Sunnah in our etiquettes, humility, mercy, leniency and forgiveness? Where are we when it comes to following his Sunnah in bravery, wisdom and Jihaad against the enemies of Allaah everywhere?

The Qualities of those who Love Allaah

Amongst the qualities of those who love Allaah are as Allaah says, which means:

> **"O you who believe! Whoever from among you turns back from his religion (Islaam), Allaah will bring a people whom He will love and they will love Him; humble towards the believers, stern towards the disbelievers, fighting in the way of Allaah, and never fearing the blame of the blamers. That is the Grace of Allaah which He bestows on whom He wills. And Allaah is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knower." (Al-Maa'idah:54)**

Allaah mentioned four of their qualities:

First: Humble towards the believers; merciful and compassionate with them, just as the Prophet (ﷺ) was in his leniency, mercy and compassion with the believers:

> **"And by the Mercy of Allaah, you dealt with them gently. And had you been**

> **severe and harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you." (Aali 'Imraan:159)**

Second: Stern towards the disbelievers, Imaam Ibn Katheer, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said:

> "These are the qualities of perfect believers; they should be humble towards their brothers in faith and supporters, and stern and harsh towards their enemies as Allaah says (what means),
>
> > **'Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. And those who are with him are severe against disbelievers, and merciful among themselves.' (Al-Fath:29)**
>
> The Prophet (ﷺ) was described as the smiling aggressive fighter; he was always smiling to the believers and aggressively fighting his enemies."

Third: Fighting in the way of Allaah with their souls, tongues and wealth, and therefore fulfilling this claim of love.

Fourth: Not fearing blame for the sake of Allaah, which is an indication of their sincere love**.**

A Glad Tiding and a Warning

Abu Hurayrah (ﷺ) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

> **"When Allah loves any of His faithful servants, He calls the angel Jibreel saying: 'Allah loves so-and-so, O Gabriel love him.' So Jibreel loves him, and announces among the inhabitants of the heavens: 'Allah loves so-and-so, therefore you should all love him too,' and so all the inhabitants in the heavens love him and he is granted the acceptance of the people on the earth." (Bukhaari & Muslim)**

The Qualities of those whom Allaah loves

Beloved Muslims! If you wish to be amongst those whom Allaah loves, you must have their qualities which are mentioned in the Qur'aan:

- To do good:

> **"And do good. Truly, Allaah loves the good-doers." (Al-Baqarah:195)**

- To repent and purify themselves:

> **"Truly, Allaah loves those who turn unto Him in repentance and loves those who purify themselves." (Al-**

Baqarah:222)

- To be are pious:

  "Yes, whoever fulfils his pledge and fears Allaah much; verily, then Allaah loves those who are the pious." (Aal 'Imraan:76)

- To be patient:

  "But they never lost heart for that which did befall them in Allaah's way, nor did they weaken nor degrade themselves. And Allaah loves the patient." (Aal 'Imraan:146)

- To rely on Allaah:

  "Then when you have taken a decision, rely on Allaah, certainly, Allaah loves those who rely on Him." (Aali 'Imraan:159)

- To be just:

  "And if you judge, judge with justice between them. Verily, Allaah loves those who act justly." (Al-

Maa'idah:42)

- To be sincere in Jihaad:

> **"Verily Allaah loves those who fight in His Cause in rows (ranks) as if they were a solid structure." (As-Saff:4)**

The Enemies of Allaah

Beloved Muslims! Beware of having the characteristics of those whom Allaah hates. He described them in His Book as follows:

- Disbelievers:

> **"But if they turn away, then Allaah does not like the disbelievers." (Aali 'Imraan:32)**

- Transgressors:

> **"And fight in the way of Allaah those who fight you, but transgress not the limits. Truly, Allaah likes not the transgressors." (Al-Baqarah:190)**

- Mischief-makers:

"And they (ever) strive to make mischief on the earth. And Allaah does not like the mischief-makers." (Al-Maa'idah:64)

- Oppressors:

"But whoever forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is with Allaah. Verily, He likes not the oppressors." (Ash-Shoora:40)

- Proud and boastful:

"Verily Allaah does not like such as are proud and boastful." (An-Nisaa':36)

- Betrayers:

"And argue not on behalf of those who deceive themselves. Verily, Allaah does not like anyone who is a betrayer, sinner." (An-Nisaa': 107).

- Publicly uttering evil:

"Allaah does not like that the evil should be uttered in public except by him who has been wronged." (An-

Nisaa':148)

- Extravagant:

> **"Eat and drink but waste not by extravagance, certainly He (Allaah) likes not those who waste by extravagance." (Al-A'raaf:31)**

- Taking pride and being ungrateful:

> **"Remember when his people said to him: Do not exult (with riches, being ungrateful to Allaah). Verily, Allaah likes not those who exult (with riches, being ungrateful to Allaah)." (Al-Qasas:76)**

The Levels of Love

Ibn Rajab, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said:

> "Love is of two levels, one is mandatory which entails loving all that Allaah commands and hating all that He prohibits; loving His Messenger (ﷺ) who conveyed the commandments and prohibitions; favouring His love over oneself and family; being content with the religion and

accepting it with full submission; loving all the Prophets and Messengers, and those who follow them exactly in faith for the sake of Allaah; and hating the disbelievers and wrongdoers for the sake of Allaah. This level is mandatory in order to fulfil the minimum required belief; the level of ones belief will decrease in proportion to how much he lacks from any of these qualities.

> **'But no! By your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you (O Muhammad ﷺ) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission.' (An-Nisaa':65)**

The second is the level foremost in righteousness and nearest to Allaah; it is a rank which elevates one to loving the optional acts of worship which Allaah loves, and hatred of minor disliked or non-recommended acts; as well as contentment with the decrees of Allaah which afflict the believer. Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said on behalf of his Lord:

> **'I will declare war against him who shows hostility to a pious worshiper of mine. And my servant never comes closer to Me by virtue of**

anything more than that which I have made compulsory upon him, and my slave continues to draw closer to me by performing optional good deeds until I love him, and if I were to love him I become the hearing by which he hears, the eyesight by which he sees, the hand by which he strikes and the legs by which he walks.' (Bukhaari & Muslim)"

Beware of Negligence

Ibn Rajab, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said:

"It is evident that when love is sincere it entails loving obedience to Allaah and hating and refraining from disobedience, but sincere people might neglect some of the commands at times, or commit some of the prohibitions, but if this happens then they hasten to blame themselves, refrain from such acts and repent. A man was brought to the Prophet (ﷺ) once while drunk, and a man from the crowd around the Prophet (ﷺ) said: 'O Allaah! Curse him, as much as he gets drunk.' Thereupon the Prophet (ﷺ) replied:

'Do not curse him, for he loves Allaah and His Messenger.'

So, Allaah will eradicate the sins of a slave whom He loves and who commits such misdemeanours.

He will eradicate them due to repentance, righteous deeds or by afflicting the slave with hardships."

A Supplication and a Hope

Mu'aadh Ibn Jabal (ﷺ) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

> **"O Allaah! Enable me to perform all that is righteous, and to refrain from all that is sinful; I ask You to me make love the needy. Forgive me and be merciful with me, and if you ever afflict your slaves with trials, then end my life with out being corrupted. I as You for your love and the love of those whom You love, and love of any deed which would get me closer to Your love."** Then he (ﷺ) said, **"These words are true so understand them and memorise them." (Ahmad & Tirmidhi)**

Things which Instigate Allaah's Love

Beloved Muslims! Perhaps you long to know the things which will instigate the love of Allaah. Some of them have been mentioned previously, but generally speaking, one can gain the love of Allaah through following His commands and refraining from disobeying

Him, as well as favouring obedience to Him over anything else and seeking His pleasure.

The love of Allaah to His believing slaves is manifested by Him through His praise for them, rewarding them, bestowing favours upon them, protecting them from sinning and enabling them to repent and supplicate for forgiveness.

Ibn Al-Qayyim, may Allaah have mercy upon him, mentioned some examples of things which instigate the love of Allaah:

- Reciting the Qur'aan with attentiveness and pondering over its meanings.
- Performing optional acts of worship after fulfilling the obligatory ones.
- Always remembering Allaah in the heart, by the tongue and deeds, because one will benefit proportional to the amount that he remembers Allaah.
- Favouring His love over any other love, particularly when your desires become strong.
- Striving hard to reach that which He loves.
- Learning and pondering over His qualities and attributes, because the one who learns and ponders over the qualities and attributes of Allaah will certainly love Him due to this.

- Thinking about His apparent and concealed favours and kindness.
- Supplicating and appealing to Him during the last third of every night, reciting His Book, standing with full servitude before Him and begging for His forgiveness.
- Being around righteous people who sincerely love Allaah and learning the best of what they say, just as one would pick the best fruit from a tree. Also, one should not speak unless one is certain that this is the correct thing to do and that one will benefit by this.
- Refraining from anything which might become an obstacle between oneself and Allaah.

All these can be achieved by being willing to perform them and having insight, which can only happen after the help of Allaah.